

**Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood Association**  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
For November 24, 2008

**Present:** Christina Cantrell, Charlie Conner, Maliq Culbreath, Linda Fusco, Jennifer Lanza, Shawn Patch, Justin Smith, Bert VanderVeen, Laura Wall, Shawn Wriede

**Absent:** Maliq Culbreath, Julie Welch

**Guests:** Officer Jim Cayton, Assistance Chief and Commander of the Investigative Bureau, Dwight Crotts, Mikey Haffley, Mebane Ham, Jenn Kilpatrick, Joe Kilpatrick, Lynne Leonard, Mia McDonough, Erica Yamaguchi

**Business meeting called to order** at 6:33 PM

**Agenda Items:**

1.) **Community Watch Report** – Special guest **Assistant Chief Dwight Crotts** spoke to the neighborhood concern that neither the Summit Ave homicide nor the recent Red Mike’s homicide has resulted in any arrests and sparse communication to the neighborhood. Assistant Chief Crotts started by commending the neighborhood’s quick communication and wished more neighborhoods were as organized. Other neighborhoods held community meetings because they do not have a method to share events, such as the **homicide at Red Mike’s** on the morning of Nov 9, 2008. However, he firmed stately that police cannot share most information during an investigation. He assured the audience that the police have an obligation to broadcast specific facts in the event of a threat to the public, but otherwise, they do not publicize to prevent tainting of information. Mebane Ham asked if the neighborhood (via the listserv) can be informed of updates at the same time as the media, and Assistant Chief Crotts agreed. He felt certain that both homicides would be resolved fairly soon, but was not prepared to offer any details. He reminded the audience that, in most homicides, the victim and the perpetrator have some relationship to each other; homicides are rarely random. Homicides are never closed by the Greensboro Police Department until they are resolved; advances in DNA matching have helped solve crimes that are “cold”, but not closed. He spoke of the value of Crime Stoppers, which allows people to call (336) 373-1000 anonymously and leave tips.

Christina Cantrell asked if **police undercover agents** ever announce their whereabouts since someone with a badge knocked at her residence on Friday, Nov 21, 2008. The same person also came to the Kirkpatrick’s (next door). Assistant Chief Crotts said any Greensboro Police Department-sanctioned investigation would produce an ID card in addition to a badge. It is possible that some private investigators (working insurance cases, for example) might announce their presence, but he felt it was unlikely.

Assistant Chief Crotts encouraged residents to call about any suspicious activity and both Jennifer Lanza and Charlie Connor reported that **drug activity appears to be prevalent**. There was discussion about the effectiveness of **nuisance abatements** on a property. Both officers stated it is a long, drawn-out civil process that must be filed by the district attorney or a city attorney. The preference is for a city attorney to file the nuisance abatement, but most city attorneys do not have adequate experience with this approach to be truly effective.

Officer Cayton stated that a number of **bike thefts** have occurred in the Aycock Neighborhood and in Greensboro. He reminded everyone to register bicycles with the city (this is required by a

city ordinance) so that a record of the serial number is on file. The contact is Al Moore at 336-373-2463. He reminded everyone that thefts of all types increase during the holiday season and asked everyone to be vigilant.

Officer Cayton also noted that the police department is aware of more crimes committed using a **skimmer, which is a device that can read a debit card**. Thieves rely on the fact that most people do not check their banking accounts very often and are able to use the debit/credit card numbers to make purchases.

2.) **Treasurer's Report** - Justin Smith reported the current balance in Aycock's account is \$9,830.53. There is \$3,000.00 reserve for Park Ave and \$1,000.00 for the Good Green Fun Fair. \$5,739.18 is the amount of the general reserve.

At last month's meeting, there was a request for Mr. Smith to procure a **Post Office box for official Aycock Neighborhood mail** (such as bank statements). The cost is \$42.00 annually for a Post Office box. A motion was made and approved unanimously to authorize this expense.

Mr. Smith also did some research on check limits but, due to another commitment, had to leave the meeting early. The available options will be discussed at the next board meeting.

3.) **Minutes from October 27, 2008 meeting** were presented, reviewed, and accepted.

4.) The **Dunleath Charrette** was held from Nov 18 through Nov 21, 2008 at the Revolution Mills Event Studio with good participation from the Aycock neighborhood, Fisher Park neighborhood, and the property owner. The Charlotte branch of design firm Duany, Plater-Zyberk created 5 options for the property of varying residential density, along with designs for an expanded greenway, and connections to downtown (replacing the Murrow Blvd cloverleaf) and to Fisher Park either over or under the railroad tracks. The final documents will be made available to the city, but no target date is available.

5.) **Chili Fundraiser** – Jennifer Lanza is chairing the annual event to be held in conjunction with the Greensboro Beautiful wreath sale at the **Farmer's Market on Dec 3, 2008 with lunch from 11:30 to 1:00 pm and dinner from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm**. Bowls of chili will be sold for \$5.00 and bottled water will be available for sale. Volunteers are needed to make chili, cornbread, and to man the booths at lunch and dinner. Ms. Lanza is planning to send an email to the listserv with a recipe for chili.

6.) **Vice-President's report** – At last month's meeting, Laura Wall suggested a **celebratory event after NeighborWoods** at Riva's, but the city is prohibited from receiving such gifts, so the invitations had to be declined.

Mike Cusimano, Greensboro Urban Forester, requested that **Aycock residents attend the City Council meeting on Dec 16, 2008** at the Council Chambers in the Melvin Municipal Building to thank the City Council members and present them with NeighborWoods T-shirts. The meeting starts at 5:30 pm.

**Bert VanderVeen's action item** – send invitations for the City Council meeting to the listserv.

Ms. Wall received a proposal for **maintaining the medians from New Garden Nursery**, but did not have the details with her. The proposal will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

**Laura Wall's action item** – send details of New Garden median maintenance plan to board members for review.

Holiday Celebrations - Ms. Wall verified with David Hoggard that **Christmas caroling will start at his house (108 Cypress St) on Saturday, Dec 13, 2008** and proceed through the neighborhood. Everyone is welcome.

**Luminarias will be available for sale for \$1.00 per bag.** The neighborhood will light them at dusk on **Sunday, Dec 14, 2008.**

**Bert VanderVeen's action item** – order sand and other materials for luminarias.

7.) Shawn Patch reported there are no pending COAs this month.

8.) Shawn Wriede asked for some board members assist him in **revamping the Aycock website.** Bert VanderVeen, Linda Fusco, Laura Wall and Christina Cantrell all volunteered for the project.

**Shawn Wriede's action item** – update the Aycock website with a 2009 calendar.

9.) **President's report** – Bert VanderVeen reported that he received some response to resurrect the **Community Block Watch** program. It became apparent after the homicide at Red Mike's, which occurred on a Sunday morning, that the listserv should not be the only method by which events are transmitted to Aycock residents.

Bert VanderVeen and Charlie Connor met with **CHS (Children's Home Society) regarding the property at 740 Chestnut St.** The property was sold by CHS to John Mandrano in a seller-financed transaction, but CHS has called the note, which Mr. Mandrano is unable to pay. The property is approximately 4,000 square feet and in very bad physical condition. CHS contacted the Aycock board because they would like Aycock's approval before proceeding with a proposal. to partner with DSS (Department of Social Services, Guilford County) to transform the structure into a training facility for young adults who have aged out of the foster care program (which only provides for children younger than 18 years), but do not have the life skills to be independent. The program is voluntary and the young adults would not live at the facility. The CHS maintains some buildings in the neighborhood and all the structures are in good shape with no adverse affect to property values. A motion was made and approved unanimously to green light the CHS proposal.

Mr. VanderVeen reminded the board that there is **no monthly meeting in December.** The next meeting is scheduled for January.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.